AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A non-invasive external control for facilitating the insertion and removal of an endoscope into a body cavity comprising:

an annular tube having an outer and inner surface with the inner diameter of the tube sized to permit sliding passage therethrough of the insertion end of an endoscope tube,

a first flange extending outwardly from the annular tube closer to the proximal end thereof, wherein the diameter of the first flange is sized to preclude insertion of the control into the body cavity of a patient,

a second flange extending outwardly from the annular tube closer to the distal end thereof,

said annular tube having means for coating the endoscope tube as it passes through the annular tube with a lubricant,

wherein the first and second flanges act as barriers to prevent lubricant from migrating onto said endoscope control.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) A control as set forth in claim 1, wherein said coating means comprises a compressible foam member impregnated with a lubricant positioned to engage an endoscope tube as it moves through the control.

4. (Original) A control as set forth in claim 3, wherein the foam member comprises an annular tube at least partially positioned at one end within the annular tube and having an inner uncompressed diameter substantially equal to the outer diameter of an endoscope tube intended to be controlled.

5 – 7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A control as set forth in claim [[7]] 1, wherein the distance between the first and second flanges provide a sufficient length along the annular tube for hand-gripping.

9. (Currently Amended) A control as set forth in claim [[3]] 1, ~~having an annular flange extending outwardly from the outer surface of the annular tube,~~ wherein said ~~annular~~ first flange ~~having~~ has a passage extending radially from the inner surface of said annular tube outwardly through the annular flange, wherein said passage ~~for feeding~~ feeds a lubricant into the interior of ~~he~~ the annular tube.

10. (Currently Amended) A control as set forth in claim 9, wherein said passage extending radially to the outer periphery of said ~~annular~~ first flange.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A control as set forth in claim [[9]] 3, wherein the compressible foam member comprises an annular tube having a major portion of its length coaxial and coextensive with at least a portion of said annular tube.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of inserting, ~~and~~ removing, and controlling an endoscope into a body cavity comprising:

providing an endoscope for insertion into a body cavity;

providing an endoscope control which includes a tubular member having a first flange at the proximal end of the tubular member, and a second flange at the distal end of the tubular member, wherein said first flange prevents any portion of the endoscope control from entering the body cavity;

threading the leading end of ~~an~~ the endoscope through the endoscope control; ~~a tubular member having~~

providing a quantity of lubricant positioned ~~thereon~~ within the endoscope control to coat the leading end of the endoscope with the lubricant immediately before insertion of the

endoscope~~,~~ into the body, wherein said first and second flanges act as barriers to prevent lubricant from migrating onto said endoscope control; and

inserting the endoscope into a body cavity and thereafter at least partially directing the endoscope as it moves into the body cavity by manual control of the ~~tubular member~~ endoscope control with the ~~tubular member~~ endoscope control entirely external of the body cavity.

14. (Original) A control as set forth in claim 12, wherein the foam annular tube is positioned interior the annular tube.

15. (Original) A control as set forth in claim 3 wherein the control has means for opening the control along its length.

16. (New) A control as set forth in claim 1, wherein said second flange is shaped for gripping to assist in controlling the insertion and removal of the endoscope tube.

17. (New) A control as set forth in claim 1, wherein said annular tube is compressible to control said means for coating t he endoscope tube with a lubricant.

18. (New) A control as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a reservoir for holding the lubricant, wherein said reservoir is located within said first flange.

19. (New) The method as recited in claim 13, wherein said second flange is shaped for gripping to assist in the manual control of said endoscope device.

20. (New) The method as recited in claim 13, further comprising:

providing a reservoir for holding the lubricant, wherein said reservoir is located within said first flange.

21. (New) The method as recited in claim 13, further comprising:

squeezing said tubular member to control the quantity of lubricant coated on said endoscope.